

*****DRAFT*****

Northampton Policing Review Full Commission Meeting

MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
6-8pm
Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97296945551?pwd=dHZmYmh1ZktZOXdJRkpHcEMrRFRNdz09>

Meeting ID: 972 9694 5551 **Passcode:** 504441

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866

1. Call to Order
 - Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - Roll Call
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Public comment (15 minutes)
3. Discussion topic: Inviting speakers (5 minutes)
4. Discussion topic: Flow and format of the public hearing (5 minutes)
5. Discussion topic: Consensus model for recommendations and points of agreement (45 minutes)
6. Discussion topic: A new department (30 minutes)
7. Subcommittee Updates:
 - Alternatives to Policing (5 minutes)
 - Policies and Services (5 minutes)
 - Outreach Subcommittee (5 minutes)
 - Spending and Contracts (5 minutes)
8. Adjourn

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Dan Cannity at 6:05PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

Commissioner Elizabeth Barajas-Roman Present

Commissioner Booker Bush Present

Commissioner Dan Cannity (co-chair) Present

Commissioner Nick Fleisher Present

Commissioner David Hoose Present

Commissioner Alex Jarrett Present

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido Present

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole Present

Commissioner Michael Quinlan Present

Commissioner Josey Rosales Present

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis Present

Commissioner Carol Owen Not Present

Commissioner Kris Banks Not Present

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 2nd

2. Public comment (15 minutes)

Community member Robert Eastman. Hoped they'd have more convos from the beginning. See why they intended having marginalized voices on the commission.

Community member Jxhn Martin read from an article that states training does not work in terms of policing. They said this research and other research showcases that police can do bias training for three years and still shoot a peaceful black protester. They urge the commission to look into community-led alternatives.

Community member Daniella Amodeo (Arts Council Chair) said commission members should be paid and said she is appy to advocate this outside of this meeting as well. She echoed Jxhn's comment and said training does not work. She said she experienced a hate crime, filed a police report, which she followed up with Councillor Nash, who suggested her to speak with the chief of police. She said she asked her questions about the defund

movement, and noted how personally her team is taking this moment. She said

Taking it personally when people were protesting police brutality, and she encountered defensiveness when she went to them to have conversations with them about race. Was pissed when she added to the leadership library when she wanted to add texts about racism. She said they're not going to be in a learning mode. Danielle said it is unlikely the NPD would be in a listening mode when talking to someone who is not their boss.

Community member Sophie Maki suggested that for people that have been most negatively impacted by police, are people who understand more than anyone that these reforms are not going to work, or offer the safety that people need. They said reducing dunning from the police and figuring out where it can go in terms of community mental health support versus more police training or programs is essential.

Community member Rye Buckley read paraphrased quotes from the last meeting.

Community Ashwin Ravikumar (Climate Action Committee) said they read the piece in the shoestring about this work. He said they uplifted Javier, Dan, Josey, and Booker's bold ideas. He thanked Booker for facilitating the last Alternatives subcommittee meeting. He said in Austin Texas, they were able to buy hotel space for houseless people by divesting from policing. He noted Seattle diverted a portion of 18% to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. He said Amherst has 36 cops and 1 sustainability commissioner and that Martin Luther King Junior said a budget is a moral document and tells you what a community is prioritizing.

3. Discussion topic: Inviting speakers (5 minutes)

Commissioner Dan Cannity said one of the groups is Northampton Abolition Now group, who has a list of demands, he said he was thinking it would be useful to have them do a 10 minutes presentation of their demands, as well as a 10 minute question and answer.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said there seems to be a lack of common language, which would be useful for the commissioner to create. He said the commission has received a lot of good material from Abolition Now and he would like to go deeper into that work.

Commissioner Alex Jarret said he's interested in hearing from Hampshire Hope which is connected to the Northampton Health Department. He said he saw an interesting position that spoke about harm reduction philosophy. He said he's interested in someone coming from there and explaining their process at present.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole offered if the commission would like to smith college

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said he Appreciates if they can come, or send an email, rather than being included in the reporting. He said he's interested in hearing from Smith College who seems to be supporting Black Lives Matter.

4. Discussion topic: Flow and format of the public hearing (5 minutes)

Commissioner Dan Cannity said during the next public hearing, the commission will be reducing the time from 10 minutes to 7 minutes during the public hearing. He said there will

also be a five minute break every hour. Spanish translation services and the live transcription will be available.

Commissioner Booker Bush suggested that no one speak for more than 5 minutes.

Commissioner Dan- more time than public comment but balancing that time if they want to have responses back.

5. Discussion topic: Consensus model for recommendations and points of agreement (45 minutes) [Document Linked Here.](#)

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said she just got a response from the city solicitor. She said the plan was to do green, yellow, red light on the list of statements drafted by the co-chairs, but that the city solicitor said it cannot be done and would be a violation of open meeting law if the responses were received directly. She prompted the commission to comment on any one or all of the points, particularly from the perspective of what you think might be a problem personally.

Commissioner David Hoose said there's a lot in the document he likes. He named #5, #6, #7 as ones that stood out to him that he likes. He said he doesn't like #1 because it is unnecessarily dogmatic, and infused with a leftist view of the world, which is unhelpful to sell this to a broader public. He said he's worried the commission will be written off, and that this fuels this kind of thinking.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said he seconded David's Comments. He said the first statement is wildly overreaching and it will derail this process. He said he doesn't support this language, but that there are other numbers he does support.

Commissioner Josey Rosales disagreed with both commissioners. They said seeing the first point as dogmatic is reductive to the conversations about racism and policing's turn toward militarization. They said they don't think this makes them looney leftists so much as it is an observation of reality through empirical data.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said even the chief of police recognized that the department reflects the racism that is present in Northampton as well as in the system at large. He said where the commissioners are setting the bar, is justified to make that statement. He wondered what language would make sense to acknowledge that the NPD is not immune from systemic racism and the influences of militaristic attitudes and institutional policies in order to move forward.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said he appreciates how this document is layed out in order to start having these conversations. He said in relation to #1, he asked the commission, if it believes whether we live in a white supremacist system, and that we live in a system that is racist, and that military involvement is analyzed when creating the budget. He said this statement is the context.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said he hears refreshing of #1

Police officers have the same biases that all of us have, would be more reasonable wording. He said he questions it being #1 which might derail the validity of the latter questions. Striking how little the complaints have been about racism, so

Commissioner Michael Quinlan Jr. said he had a similar response to Commissioner David and Commissioner Nnamdi Pole when he read this document this morning, but realized he's supposed to feel uncomfortable so we have to take this on and read this and feel uncomfortable. He said items #2-15 strike him as constructive, versus #1 strikes him as inflammatory.

Commissioner Alex Jarret said the whole society is permeated with this culture. Noho police is one expression of that. Framing it as policing in general, and recognizing the inclusiveness in that. Remembering that it isn't the individuals in the NPD that have racist tendencies but its the structure of policing, if well phrased in the report is something we should include.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said isn't going to be thrown into the world. Just giving us a way to understand where we all are. Been brought up- we don't have a set of values we don't agree on, this is getting us there. How do you even report it and complain about it and thoes structures influence what we've heard. Fixing racism is hard. If it was easy, it would be done.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher said he understands the importance of addressing realities trying to be direct as possible. he also agrees discomfort may be a part of this for many people. he said he thinks this would be read as a personal attack on the NPD, that's the read it would be perceived, and feels it could be written differently.

Commissioner Javier Luengo- can build the context needed to build. Know that the NPD is embedded in a white supremacist system. But if people are needing more general language, it's fine. Localities across the commonwealth is complicated, what we're seeing across the board is white liberalist exceptionalism tendency- saying their NPD is the most progressive out of all of them. And that's complicated because people don't understand, were talking about the systemic issue. One of the things I think about when i'm listening is that i do understand when naamdi clarifies that probably chief of police said they are just people. Ya but they are people with guns. There are several if not a lot of added layers to that. Saying that they are just people doesn't make the cut because we live in a country where a poc has to be able to handle high stress level situations in pfrom t of a cop and officers are unable to control themselves and that poc has to. That person doesn't have any training. Police officers are people. Of course. But where we talk about expectations for people who have a certain role in this system, we have to go up.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis language is going to be important. Dan and I will see how we can do a poll and at the same time look at the language so that is a value. This would be part of making that case. Something happening in society is being reflected in all our situations .final comments on approach of the consensus, and anything es

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said the first statement that could be fact based, he feels like he doesn't need to appeal to white supremacy. Love to bring the NPD on board as agreeing with everything that they're saying. Chief didn't have a lot of ideas. If we position this as we all agree theres a problem here, we all see it, versus saying you are infected with racism. That sets up unnecessary tension. Instead of demonizing that group. Not paint everyone with a broad brush.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher- Polling as in anonymous polling or where does each of us stand

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis where do each of us stand.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher - break #11 into four different parts. Doesn't agree about all the sentences. Suggested looking at that and how it could be broken down.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett- can share anything in a meeting, is that we can create documents that have our responses and put them in the chat and the cochairs can retrieve them.

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Commissioner Dan Cannity- statement from Michael in terms of the possibility of a new department

Commissioner Michael Quinlan - elected official health equity network. Advocated for states, private businesses and municipalities to create a municipality to work toward equity. Aug 20 board of health declared racism a public emergency. The board of health has committed to working with the city to try to create equitable solutions, including orders and ordinances. Board of health willing to assist. Council passed resolution to combat racism Black and Latino legislative caucus. Proposed that make additional item to embrace this idea. Feels council approved the amendment and it was approved unanimously. New office here maybe we should think about how we can tie together two resolutions which could bring the board of health as well as city council that could drum up a lot of support.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido - appreciate last 8 meetings talking about possibility of new department. Feels that's one of the most concrete steps and recommendations. Thinks it should be followed by a recommendation about structure. Has to be accountability. A department that is charged to follow policies to address what were talking about here, for transparency need to report to the community and hold community meetings. Accountability and reporting is part of a recommendation.

Booker- Add

Dan- Add

Commissioner Alex Jarrett thinking about accountability, #9: being accountable to those it serves. Worth looking into board that advice departments. Board of health connected to the health department. Has legal powers the state gives it, while there are other boards that are purely advisory. Worth looking into seeing how much you can build that accountability in, or is it a kind of trust of accountability and having a board that have peer experiences, where there is a commitment by the mayor for that department to be accountable to that board.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher- Alternatives has had a tight committee and enjoys the enthusiasm. Eager to support an alternative model. Looking at reforms, don't think any of us, feel that reforms would be sufficient. The reforms were looking to depend on having an alternative model. Personally want to have some input into an alternative model. Would be glad to collaborate. Feels an alternative department needs the input of the entire commission and he thinks there's going to be a lot of consensus.

Commissioner David Hoose- some things may not neatly fit into the department. Need to be thinking about what the police now do that we need to remove from the police. Correctly identifies interest in traffic. He feels frustrated that the commission hasn't talked about

traffic a lot. He asked the chief how to account for despite all the training and hiring practices that black people still get killed in the course of traffic stops. Why do you think that is. She said she doesn't know the answer. There is an answer. And the answer I wanted was because racism is such a part of our national psyche that you can't educate and train your way out of it. So the only thing you can do is to reduce the number of times people of color have to interact with an armed person. Not even talking about the thousands of microaggressions a day in these police motor vehicle contexts. Not sure that that fits into a new department of community care. Already have a parking department. maybe you can expand it and incrementally add to their work. Next year they start doing minor traffic. Year after, traffic enforcement. the real issue is what is going to go under the department. What do we have Consensus on removing from police control?

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole having an entity in city to think about minority needs makes a lot of sense. Chief said police finds themselves involved in business that gets into trouble, is because they're a 24/7 service. Whatever entity we think about-- needs to be available 24/7 which might have financial implications. Even if police got out of everything but serious crime, would need a minimal department like 5 officers to be present at all times to deal with emergencies which would cost money. She couldn't run barebones under that circumstances. Unsure if it's true. Is there a floor we can't go below in terms of funding in order to have minimal crisis response.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett- discussing proposals re. Priorities, phases, and what could fit into this fiscal year. Invites David, to talk in their alternatives committee about traffic.

Commissioner Booker Bush- suggested watching interview from chief Kasper from last night. Moving about her own personal care in reform. Surprised about and didn't know about was also interesting. Better if entity began its work in a smaller group. Easier to get stuff done when started in smaller committee. Safety committee which would include health as well as traffic. Need to think hard about where that would be.

Commissioner Dan Cannity- any commissioner can attend any subcommittee. Great time to have joint subcommittee meetings.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said they've been exploring does it have to be five armed police officers, what if some were not armed, or were replaced with peer responders or EMTs etc. looking at budgetary effect of those changes as long as the quality of services. on top of contractual obligation the city has to have a department. no law that says maximum/ minimum for police force. something to think about.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he will meet with Cynthia Suopis.

updates from subcommittees

Alternatives

Commissioner invited chief tomorrow. invited the public. allow you to debrief with them. working on priorities and writing. had a rather intense last meeting where commissioners leaned into discomfort, and had a discussion about the commission work.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido - appreciates Booker, it was incredibly provocative, honest, constructive. if noa can send the link to the commission. appreciates the whole alternatives

commission.

Commissioner Carol Owen said she remembered in that conversation expressing that she feels inhibited by the parliamentary process because in the past she's often worked in movement organizing where people got to know people more holistically. she said she spoke to discomfort in speaking about what is happening across the country. unconscious bias or implicit bias can exist in body like this and that i we are inhibited in addressing that when it comes up in conscious regretful feelings are expressed and they're hurtful of others, we don't seem to have a mechanism to be able to address that. during meeting, spoke openly and with vulnerability and felt more connected with subcommittee members.

Commissioner Alex Jarret said he appreciates the commission and said he's continually coming to terms with representing 4,000 people, being accountable, and trying to have deep honest convos can be a challenge.

Outreach

Commissioner Subcommittee was unable to meet last week because he had to present on a panel about immigration in Springfield. hopefully meeting this saturday after 2pm. need to finalize and get clarity from Dan in relationship to the online survey. hopes that for the last public hearing, will be able to reach affected community.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he will be meeting with the city today.

Policies

Commissioner Nick Fleisher stated the committee met with the chief last night and had a productive meeting.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said the chief let the committee know about inaccuracies in the report. He said they were given a list of things that were inaccurate and said they should be revisited by the commission and see if they are actually are inaccuracies.

Spending & Contracts

Commissioner Josey Rosales said the committee has been looking at models for displaying data, and what it might look like to fund the potable water access with an allocation of the initial cut from the budget.

10. Adjourn

**Commissioner David Hoose moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.
Commissioner Alex Jarret seconded. The motion adjourn was passed unanimously.**